

BLACK DIAMOND RC&D 2009/2010 ANNUAL PLAN of WORK



Promoting Equestrian Trails



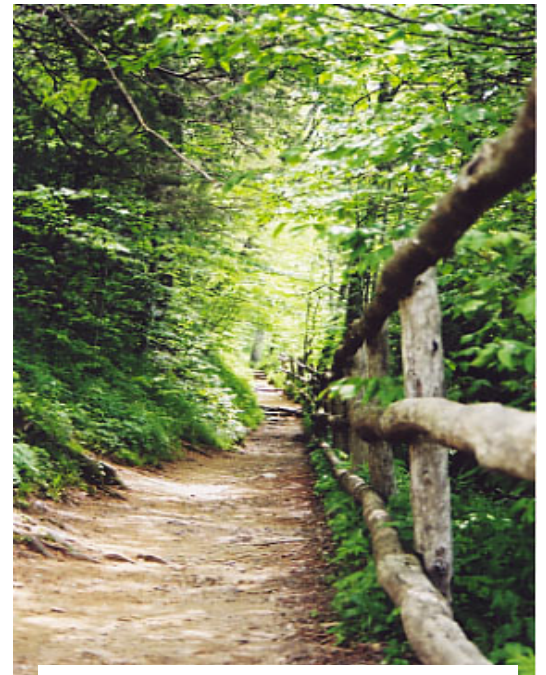
More Blueways

Examples of RC&D Initiatives:

- ◆ Promote support for Southwest Region Recreation Authority (p.8)
- ◆ Host a SW Virginia Straight Pipes Task Force (p.9)
- ◆ Southwest Virginia Environmental Education Task Force (p.6)
- ◆ Form a Virginia Litter Control Officer's Association (p.9)



Connecting to Hatfield and McCoy Trails



More Hiking Trails

Administered by

Black Diamond Resource Conservation & Development Council

◆140 Highland Drive, Suite 2, Lebanon, VA 24266 ◆Phone: (276) 889-4180 ◆Fax: (276) 889-4246
A non-profit 501© (3) organization serving Virginia in Buchanan, Dickenson, Lee, Russell, Scott,
and Wise counties; and the independent City of Norton

Forward

The U.S. Secretary of Agriculture designated the Black Diamond Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Area in 1994, under the Agriculture and Food Act of 1981, as amended. The purpose of the RC&D Area is to promote resource conservation and community development in the portions of the Big Sandy and Upper Tennessee River watersheds of Virginia that lie within Buchanan, Dickenson, Lee, Russell, Scott and Wise counties and the City of Norton.

The Black Diamond RC&D Council, a nonprofit organization, leads implementation of RC&D activities in the Area. **The Council’s mission is to initiate and coordinate projects that improve the quality and quantity of our water supplies; educate the public on environmental issues and to foster sustainable economic development of our natural resources.**

The Black Diamond RC&D Council focuses on:

- Promoting the conservation of natural resources, with an emphasis on improvement and protection of water quality;
- Promoting community development and a diverse rural economy;
- Promoting managed growth and development, with an emphasis on protection of farm and forestland and open space;
- Strengthening Black Diamond RC&D Council operations.

To achieve this mission, the Black Diamond RC&D Council has adopted this Fiscal Year 2010 Annual Plan of Work. This document is designed to be a flexible management tool the Council uses to guide its activities throughout the fiscal year. Benefits of the Annual Plan of Work include:

- Allowing continuity of action from one year to the next;
- Keeping everyone working towards the same goal;
- Informing the sponsors about Black Diamond RC&D Council activities;
- Forming the basis for technical assistance from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in accessing programs and services from USDA and others to achieve the Council’s goals and objectives.

Approval

The Black Diamond Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc. hereby adopts the Annual Plan of Work for Fiscal Year 2010 and agrees to effectively use the assistance provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to realize the strategies and goals outlined herein. This action taken at the Council’s regular meeting held on July 16, 2009.

Carolyn Baker, Black Diamond RC&D Council Chair Date

Jerry Ingle, Black Diamond RC&D Secretary Date

U.S. Department of Agriculture - Natural Resources Conservation Service Concurrence

John A. “Jack” Bricker, NRCS State Conservationist Date

“All programs and assistance of the Black Diamond RC&D Council are available without regard to race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotope, etc.) should contact the USDA’s TARGET Center at (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.”

TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>SERVICES</u>	p. 4
<u>ANNUAL PLAN OF WORK OVERVIEW</u>	p. 4
<u>NEW PROJECTS</u>	p. 4
<u>BUDGET</u>	p. 4
<u>COORDINATOR TIME OBLIGATIONS</u>	p. 5
<u>PARTNERING ORGANIZATIONS</u>	p. 5
<u>SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS</u>	p. 5
<u>FISCAL YEAR 2010 WORK PLAN: PROJECTS SUMMARY</u>	p. 6
<u>COUNCIL MEETING DATES</u>	p. 12

Black Diamond RC&D envisions a vibrant, diversified economy in Southwest Virginia, to include abundance of clean water, tourism, natural beauty, expansion of diversified agricultural, forestry, mining and manufacturing products, which take place within a healthy environment.

USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service provides technical assistance (staff, office, vehicle, etc.) to the Black Diamond RC&D. Our locally led 501-c-3 nonprofit seeks funding for projects from foundations, state and federal agencies, and corporations.

SERVICES

The Black Diamond RC&D Council provides diverse services in the areas of natural resources and community development. The Council provides technical assistance to its sponsors and organizations consistent with the Black Diamond RC&D Council's Annual and Area Plans. The Council places a high priority on working on regional projects and issues. The Council and its "ad hoc project" committees undertake projects consistent with the Annual and Area Plans. Please contact the RC&D office (276.889.4180) or go to our website (www.blackdiamondrcd.org) to review these plans. Sponsors and other organizations desiring assistance may make a request in writing to the Council. All sources of technical and financial assistance are explored. Black Diamond RC&D does not address projects that can best be addressed by others or where collaboration is not needed or possible. WE ESPECIALLY DO NOT WISH TO DUPLICATE ANY SERVICES of our valuable partners!

ANNUAL PLAN OF WORK OVERVIEW

The Annual Plan of Work is an annual action plan focusing and directing the activities of the Black Diamond RC&D Council. Planning builds a framework leading to the achievement of organizational goals and objectives. Some benefits of an annual plan:

- Defines the actions needed to meet established goals and objectives in a defined time frame within the organization's capacity for implementation.
- Communicates those actions to the organization's constituents.
- Ensures the most effective use is made of the organization's resources by focusing the resources on important priorities.
- Provides a base from which progress can be measured and establishes a mechanism for informed change when needed.

The annual plan will be reviewed at least quarterly and updated as projects are completed or otherwise modified in any major way. Progress documentation will be handled through Council meeting minutes and project updates provided as appropriate at Council meetings. The annual plan will be adjusted to reflect completed/cancelled/withdrawn projects and major modification of projects.

NEW PROJECTS

The Annual Plan of Work is an adaptable document with modifications made throughout the year as opportunities arise or shift. New projects may be added to the Annual Plan of Work as needed. Project proposals may be submitted to the Council for its consideration throughout the year. They may be submitted by individuals, local governments, non-profits, and other organizations that are focused on the social, economic and environmental well-being of Virginia's Coalfields. Proposed projects need to meet two criteria. First, the project must be compatible with the Black Diamond RC&D Council's goals and objectives in its current five-year plan called an Area Plan (2008-2013). Second, the project needs to have a project leader and other citizens ready to make the project happen. Without grassroots citizen participation and leadership, the project will not succeed.

BUDGET

The Council Budget associated with the Council's Annual Plan of Work and administrative obligations is a separate document that is approved annually at the same meeting as the Annual Plan of Work. When separate project proposals are received and approved and grant funds are sought and received, then each project has a separate project budget associated with it.

COORDINATOR TIME OBLIGATIONS

A rough estimate of coordinator time obligations to carry out all coordinator duties and responsibilities based on a workload analysis is as follows: 35% of time spent on projects; 20% of time spent on Council duties and administration; 10% of time spent on Virginia Association of RC&D Councils' responsibilities; and 35% of time spent on USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service duties (includes annual, sick & holiday leave).

PARTNERING ORGANIZATIONS

Partnering organizations that carry out RC&D work include, but are not limited to: Appalachian RC&D; Big Sandy RC&D; Big Sandy River Basin Coalition, Inc.; Canaan Valley Institute; Keep Southwest Virginia Beautiful; Mountain RC&D; Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA); Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission (ORSANCO); Powell River Project; Rural Development (USDA); Southwest Regional Recreation Authority; Team Estonoa; Tennessee Valley Authority; The Nature Conservancy; Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation; Virginia Department of Environmental Quality; Virginia Department of Forestry; Virginia Department of Game & Inland Fisheries; Virginia Department of Health; Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy; Virginia Department of Transportation; United States Forest Service; Upper Tennessee River Roundtable; U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the Virginia Cooperative Extension Service (Virginia Tech).

SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS

The following fourteen organizations and **local governments** sponsor the Black Diamond RC&D Council. Each sponsor appoints someone to represent them on the RC&D Council, which meets four times per year. The sponsors are Big Sandy Soil & Water Conservation District, **Buchanan County**, Clinch Valley Soil & Water Conservation District, Cumberland Plateau Planning District Commission, Daniel Boone Soil & Water Conservation District, **Dickenson County**, **Lee County**, LENOWISCO Planning District Commission, Lonesome Pine Soil & Water Conservation District, **City of Norton**, **Russell County**, **Scott County**, Scott County Soil & Water Conservation District and **Wise County**.

FISCAL YEAR 2010 WORK PLAN: PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES SUMMARY

Five Projects nearing completion:

Powell River Education Initiative (#148) – In 2003, the RC&D helped persuade the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to use some of the court-ordered settlement funds from the Powell River spill to be used to create a 3-year Powell River Environmental Educator position. Lisa Harris now fills this position on the Daniel Boone Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) staff. The RC&D has an excellent opportunity to work with the Daniel Boone SWCD to enhance their Powell River Education Program. The RC&D will assist Lisa with the preparation of a grant proposal seeking funding for environmental education supplies and resources. This project will be completed by December 2009.

Partners: Daniel Boone Soil & Water Conservation District

Area Plan – Community Development – Goal 3, Objective 1, Strategies 3 & 5

Progress	Action Planned 2009	Cost Estimate	Council Representative	Staff Representative	Staff Time
	Prepare & submit a grant proposal	\$12,000 (costs include staff time, grants & in-kind match)	Lisa Harris	New Coordinator	20 hours

Promote Civil Damages Ordinance & Model Litter Ordinance (#149) – Wise County developed the Civil Damages Ordinance in 2005, which allows their local government to prosecute litterers in civil court rather than criminal court. It is far easier to prove that someone littered in civil court than in criminal court. Also, fines through the civil court process can be levied up to \$5,000 per offense. Buchanan and Dickenson counties adopted the Civil Damages Ordinance in late 2007. Buchanan County also adopted the Model Litter Ordinance, which the RC&D’s Southwest Virginia Litter Task Force developed in 2005. FYI, the Civil Damages Ordinance is a section of the larger Model Litter Ordinance. The RC&D’s approach is to at least get the Civil Damages Ordinance approved by a local government, since it is a very powerful tool in enforcing litter laws.

Partners: Keep Southwest Virginia Beautiful and the litter control offices for Buchanan, Dickenson, Lee, Russell, Scott & Wise counties and the City of Norton

Area Plan – Community Development – Goal 1, Objective 1, Strategy 2

Progress	Action Planned 2009	Cost Estimate	Council Representative	Staff Representative	Staff Time
	Approve this three-year project as completed in Sept. 2009.	\$1,200	Carolyn Baker & Toby Edwards	Blaine Delaney	20 hours

Southwest Virginia Environmental Education Task Force (#150) – Karen Hartsock chaired this task force, which met four times between November 2006 and February 2008. The following eleven school districts participated on this task force: Bristol, Buchanan, Dickenson, Lee, Norton, Russell, Scott, Smyth, Tazewell, Washington and Wise. Their recommendations will be published in the fall of 2009 in an environmental resource guide to be distributed to the school board members, area schools, key teachers promoting environmental education and to our conservation partners.

Partners: Southwest Environmental Education Team (SWEET), Tennessee Valley Authority, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, CONSOL Energy, CNX Gas and members of the task force from eleven school districts.

Area Plan – Community Development – Goal 3, Objective 1, Strategy 1

Progress	Action Planned 2009	Cost Estimate	Council Representative	Staff Representative	Staff Time
	Publish Env. Ed. Task Force Recommendations by December 2009	\$8,000	Karen Hartsock & Lisa Harris	Robin Smith & New Coordinator	80 hours

Develop TMDLs for the Levisa, Powell & North Fork of the Holston Rivers (#163) – New River-Highlands RC&D has a long-standing working relationship with MapTech in the development of TMDLs throughout Southwest Virginia. TMDL stands for total maximum daily load. Some state funds (*administered by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)*) to develop TMDLs are designated for use by nonprofits, such as RC&Ds. Black Diamond RC&D has entered into an agreement with the New River-Highlands RC&D to assist them with the development of 3 TMDLs within Black Diamond RC&D’s service area. Our role as “host” will be to assist in selecting meeting sites; helping get good turnout for these public meetings; and encouraging key stakeholders to participate. MapTech will develop the TMDL for each of these three rivers with a final report outlining what are the major pollutants that need to be addressed in the future to remove these waters from DEQ’s 303d list (*impaired waters*).

Partners: Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, MapTech Inc, Big Sandy SWCD, Daniel Boone SWCD and Scott County SWCD

Area Plan – Water Management – Goal 5, Objective 1, Strategies 1 & 2

Progress	Action Planned 2009	Cost Estimate	Council Representative	Staff Representative	Staff Time
	Assist DEQ with the final set of public meetings by December 2009.	\$3,000	Jerry Ingle, Edna Justus, Jean Burks & J.B. Swiger	Robin Smith & new coordinator	40 hours

TVA Funds for the Clinch-Powell - Oct. 1, 2008 – Sept. 30, 2009 (#165) – TVA funds numerous watershed projects in the Clinch and Powell through the RC&D. This saves them administrative costs by entering into one cooperative agreement with us for the basin, rather than a new one every time they fund a new project. **JEFF NEAL & EDNA JUSTUS**

Partners: Tennessee Valley Authority & Upper Tennessee River Roundtable

Area Plan – Water Management – Goal 7, Objective 1, Strategy 1

Progress	Action Planned 2009	Cost Estimate	Council Representative	Staff Representative	Staff Time
	Finalize report of accomplishments in September.	\$10,000	Jeff Neal & Edna Justus	Robin Smith & Blaine Delaney	5 hours

Tourism:

Spearhead Trailblazers Technical Assistance for July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010 (#173) - We have been assisting the FRIENDS GROUP for the Southwest Regional Recreation Authority this past year. The Southwest Regional Recreation Authority (SRRA), which was created by the Virginia General Assembly in 2008, does not have any staff yet. SRRA receives excellent staff support from the Virginia Tourism Corporation. The RC&D has agreed to assist their Friends Group, which selected their name recently as the Spearhead Trailblazers. This project is the kind of undertaking that our local governments and USDA-NRCS want the RC&D to be working on since it will create lots of jobs and new businesses in the coming decade.

Partners: Southwest Regional Recreation Authority, Virginia Tourism Corporation & Spearhead Trailblazers

Area Plan – Community Development – Goal 2, Objective 1, Strategies 1 & 2

Progress	Action Planned 2010	Cost Estimate	Council Representative	Staff Representative	Staff Time
	Deliver 10 presentations promoting Spearhead Trails & identify next activity to add value to their efforts.	\$10,000	Bill Smith	New coordinator	100 hours

Water Quality:

Big Sandy River Basin Implementation Plan (#164) – With the interstate agreement in hand, the next step is to develop an implementation plan. The Big Sandy River Basin Coalition hired Ted Withrow as a part-time coordinator. The RC&D will work closely with the Coalition to develop this plan in conjunction with state representatives from Kentucky, Virginia and West Virginia and staff from the Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission (ORSANCO).

Partners: Big Sandy River Basin Coalition, Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation, Lonesome Pine SWCD, Big Sandy SWCD, Big Sandy RC&D, Mountain RC&D, ORSANCO & Great Kanawha RC&D

Area Plan – Water Management – Goal 1, Objective 2, Strategy 1

Progress	Action Planned 2010	Cost Estimate	Council Representative	Staff Representative	Staff Time
	Develop implementation plan & prepare at least one grant proposal.	\$30,000	Carolyn Baker & Edna Justus	New coordinator	75 hours

Straight Pipes:

Southwest Virginia Straight Pipes Task Force (#158) – this will become our 3rd regional task force. We have proven that pulling together coalitions is something we have a knack for in our mountains. Unless, this task force felt a strong need to continue after one or two “ad hoc” meetings, we suspect their work could be accomplished by September 2010. This task force would cover the same 13 counties (3 *planning district commissions*) that worked together to develop ***The Southwest Virginia Regional Wastewater Study: The Clear Choice*** that helped lead to \$17 million in funding from the Virginia General Assembly to address straight pipes and wastewater issues in the Southern Rivers. There are a number of issues “bubbling” to the service that need to be addressed regionally through working together, such as (1) - how to accelerate straight pipe inventories to map where they are located; (2) - promoting regional operation and maintenance providers (*rather than expect each public service authority to develop the expertise to operate and maintain their own decentralized treatment facilities*); and (3) – public education efforts to raise awareness of the straight pipes challenge.

Partners: Cumberland Plateau PDC, LENOWISCO PDC, Mount Rogers PDC, Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation, Tennessee Valley Authority, Upper Tennessee River Roundtable, Big Sandy River Basin Coalition, Virginia Department of Health, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality and 10 soil & water conservation districts (SWCDs)

Area Plan – Water Management – Goal 2, Objective 1, Strategy 1

Progress	Action Planned 2010	Cost Estimate	Council Representative	Staff Representative	Staff Time
	Convene task force	\$15,000	Roger Blackstone, Carolyn Baker & Edna Justus	New coordinator	100 hours

Litter Prevention Issues:

Virginia Litter Control Association (#157) – We are assisting Keep Southwest Virginia Beautiful (KSVB) and the Upper Tennessee River Roundtable to create this “new” statewide organization. South Carolina has established this kind of organization. The strength of the litter prevention program within Virginia currently is “centered” in “far” Southwest Virginia. We believe that by creating a statewide organization we would not only strengthen litter prevention efforts in the rest of the Commonwealth, but that we would also strengthen our regional/local abilities to do even more in litter prevention work in the future.

Partners: Keep Southwest Virginia Beautiful & Upper Tennessee River Roundtable

Area Plan – Community Development – Goal 1, Objective 2, Strategies 1 & 2

Progress	Action Planned 2010	Cost Estimate	Council Representative	Staff Representative	Staff Time
	Host the 1 st board meeting of the Virginia Litter Control Association.	\$10,000	Toby Edwards	New coordinator & Robin Smith	100 hours

Environmental Education:

Promote Southwest Virginia Environmental Education Task Force’s Recommendations (#166) – We expect the distribution of the task force’s publication to begin by January 2010. This technical assistance project would entail the RC&D Coordinator presenting the task force’s recommendations to all 11 school boards in the coming year. The local task force member representing each school district would help deliver these recommendations to her/his school board.

Partners: Southwest Environmental Education Team (SWEET) and members of the task force from eleven school districts.

Area Plan – Community Development – Goal 3, Objective 1, Strategy 2

Progress	Action Planned 2010	Cost Estimate	Council Representative	Staff Representative	Staff Time
	Deliver 11 presentations	\$6,000	Karen Hartsock & Lisa Harris	New coordinator	70 hours

Phase I Implementation of SW VA Environmental Education Task Force’s Recommendations (#167) – Our nonprofit would pull together a regional grant writing team to go after some large funding sources to work towards implementation of some of the task force’s recommendations that require funding. This assistance would be spread over two years ending by September 15, 2011.

Partners: Southwest Environmental Education Team (SWEET) and members of the task force from eleven school districts.

Area Plan – Community Development – Goal 3, Objective 1, Strategy 3

Progress	Action Planned 2010	Cost Estimate	Council Representative	Staff Representative	Staff Time
	Prepare at least one large grant proposal.	\$100,000	Karen Hartsock & Lisa Harris	New coordinator	80 hours

Teacher Workshop (#161) – Robin Smith, RC&D Secretary, expressed interest in taking the lead on pulling together an environmental education workshop for area teachers in 2010. The name for this specific project will be changed once a topic has been selected, such as Save Our Streams.

Partners: Southwest Environmental Education Team (SWEET), Upper Tennessee River Roundtable & Big Sandy River Basin Coalition.

Area Plan – Community Development – Goal 3, Objective 1, Strategy 4

Progress	Action Planned 2010	Cost Estimate	Council Representative	Staff Representative	Staff Time
	Host one workshop	\$4,000	Karen Hartsock & Lisa Harris	Robin Smith	80 hours

Land Conservation:

2010 Farm Bill Outreach Program (#172) – Until the RC&D budget returns to the full funding level, USDA-NRCS will seek help from Virginia’s RC&D coordinators to help the local NRCS field offices in their respective RC&D areas in promoting Farm Bill Programs, such as EQIP (*Environmental Quality Incentives Program*). Black Diamond RC&D’s local NRCS field offices are located in Jonesville, Gate City and Lebanon.

Partners: Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Virginia Cooperative Extension Service, Big Sandy SWCD, Clinch Valley SWCD, Daniel Boone SWCD, Lonesome Pine SWCD & Scott County SWCD

Area Plan – Land Conservation – Goal 1, Objective 1, Strategies 1, 2 & 3

Progress	Action Planned 2010	Cost Estimate	Council Representatives	Staff Representative	Staff Time
	Assist with the promotion of at least 3 public meetings (one per service center).	\$4,000	Edna Justus & Lisa Harris	New coordinator	50 hours

“ADMINISTRATIVE” PROJECTS:

One of the roles RC&Ds often fill is to administer grant funds for partners. Reasons include: (1) – partner needs a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit to receive funds; (2) – easier to fund one regional organization, which then “cuts” a number of smaller checks to multiple recipients; and (3) – giving funding to a nonprofit to administer can bypass fiscal year deadlines, allowing more funding to come to our region.

TVA Funds for the Clinch-Powell - Oct. 1, 2009 – Sept. 30, 2010 (#174) – TVA funds numerous watershed projects in the Clinch and Powell through the RC&D. This saves them administrative costs by entering into one cooperative agreement with us for the basin, rather than a new one every time they fund a new project.

Partners: Tennessee Valley Authority & Upper Tennessee River Roundtable

Area Plan – Water Management – Goal 7, Objective 1, Strategy 1

Progress	Action Planned 2010	Cost Estimate	Council Representative	Staff Representative	Staff Time
	Administer funding & assist TVA to target funds to improve water quality.	\$75,000	Jeff Neal	Robin Smith & new coordinator	30 hours

Streambank Restoration Program FY 09-11 (#175) – U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USF&WS) funds utilized for riparian restoration projects in the Clinch, Powell and Holston watersheds within Virginia. This project will officially end on June 30, 2011.

Partners: U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Area Plan – Land Management – Goal 2, Objective 1, Strategy 1

Progress	Action Planned 2010	Cost Estimate	Council Representative	Staff Representatives	Staff Time
	Administer funding & assist USF&WS to target funds to improve water quality.	\$50,000	Jeff Neal	Robin Smith & new coordinator	30 hours

COUNCIL MEETING DATES

- July 16, 2009
- October 15, 2009
- February 18, 2010
- April 15, 2010 (*Awards Banquet*)
- July 15, 2010 (*Annual Meeting – Election of Officers*)

Council meetings are held in the Wise/Norton area, beginning at 7:00 PM. The public is welcome to attend. Please contact the RC&D office to learn which restaurant or meeting place we will be using for that meeting, since we do move these meetings around. A public notice is listed in the Coalfield Progress announcing each RC&D meeting as well or you can go to the RC&D website at www.blackdiamondrcd.org.